



UNAPPROVED MINUTES
CITY OF MILPITAS

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Minutes: Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Commission (BPAC)
Date of Meeting: April 10, 2007
Time of Meeting: 7:00 P.M.
Place of Meeting: Milpitas Sports Center Conference Room

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

BTAC Members

Present: Rene Briones, Cheryl Bunnell, Bill Reisinger (Chair), Nawal Stanojevic, Fred Zeise

City Council Member Armando Gomez

Staff: Janice Nadal, Jaime Rodriguez

Absent: Commissioner Wesley Roediger

Quorum was established.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION to approve the April 10, 2007 agenda

M/S: Stanojevic/Bunnell

All Ayes

V. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

MOTION to approve the February 5, 2007 BPAC minutes.

M/S as amended: Stanojevic/ Bunnell

All Ayes

VI. PUBLIC FORUM

Rob Means, 1421 Yellowstone Avenue

Rob Means discussed the issue of global warming and the City should explore looking at alternate options.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. VTA BPAC meeting report- Chair Reisinger

Chair Reisinger reported the VTA BPAC is working on updating the Bicycle Technical Guidelines.

2. Commission Announcements

Chair Reisinger reported that he will be moving to San Jose, and this will be his last meeting after 12 years of being on the commission. He will still own a home in Milpitas. Staff Jaime Rodriguez suggested a formal announcement should be made to the council. Staff will check up on this.

3. Staff Announcements

Staff Janice Nadal reminded the Commissioners of the Commission

Recognition Event on April 18, 2007 at 7PM at City Hall.

Mr. Rodriguez reported there will be some enhanced crosswalks around the school crossing locations throughout the City. Some locations include Abbott Avenue, Arizona Drive, and Park Victoria.

Council Member Gomez reported the enhanced crosswalks are a part of the Clean and Safe Streets program that focuses on engineering improvements, education and policy.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

1. Milpitas Traffic Congestion Committee Update

- City of Milpitas Study
- Traffic Improvements- Loading Zone striping along Escuela Parkway

Mr. Rodriguez distributed a presentation handout regarding the traffic congestion study for the schools around Escuela Parkway. The committee is an ad hoc committee that consists of the school partners and interested community members. The UC Berkeley Institute of Traffic Studies (ITS) performed a study. The study looked at many factors including passenger-loading zones. Mr. Rodriguez mentioned there is one passenger-loading zone on Arizona Avenue near the Milpitas high school entrance.

Mr. Rodriguez mentioned last year, the topic of removing the bicycle lanes from Escuela Parkway and putting in passenger loading zones instead was brought forth to this Commission. This item was not approved.

However with the UC Berkeley ITS Study for Escuela Parkway, Mr. Rodriguez is requesting approval to recommend again the removal of the bicycle lanes on Escuela Parkway in order to place passenger loading zones. The passenger loading zones will be installed on Escuela Parkway from Russell Lane to Washington and also on Jacklin Road to the west of Escuela Parkway. This conversion would take place during the summer for the next school year.

Commission Stanojevic mentions that students are already dropped off at Jacklin Road so this would be a suitable location.

Mr. Rodriguez said there is a brand new lane marking to use in place of the bicycle lane, a sharrow. The sharrow promotes sharing the road with the bicycle lane. There can also be a sign that only allows the passenger-loading zone from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. for school drop-off and pick-up. During the evening hours and weekends, there will be no parking any time.

Chair Reisinger what the removal of bike lanes would consist of. Mr. Rodriguez reported the removal would consist of grinding out the 6-inch white stripe for the bike lane and the symbols. Where the 6-inch bike lane would be, a sharrow symbol will be posted. The symbol is consisted with the Manual Uniform of Traffic Control Devices nationwide and in California.

There may be a possibility of shared funding with the County of Santa Clara.

Another recommendation from the report more high visibility crosswalks, which the City currently has installed, more crosswalk locations around Escuela Parkway, enforcement for illegal u-turns. Another recommendation includes a bike path on the Hetch Hetchy right-of-way, which is difficult because of the pipeline located under the median. A suggestion also includes converting the one-way entrance into Milpitas from Escuela Parkway to Arizona Avenue into a two-way street. This is located on Milpitas Unified School District property and would have to be implemented by the school district.

Chair Reisinger allowed Milpitas citizen Allyson McDonald to speak on this topic. Mrs. McDonald is very concerned about the removal of bicycle lanes. She sees that as downgrading bicycles. There are already drivers dropping off children along Escuela Parkway and the in and out movement of cars along the street is unsafe for the bicyclists. It is not safe for students, ages 10-13 years old to bike with traffic as it is. She reported an old study from 1996 from the League of American Bicyclists, out of 1900 valid surveys, 9% were serious bicycle crashes resulting in \$50 or more of damage. Streets with bike lanes have fewer amounts of crashes. Sidewalk biking is dangerous, which most students resort to on Escuela. Sharrow lanes increase bicycles safety on the roads where there is no room for bike lanes which Escuela Parkway has the lanes already. Mrs. McDonald recommends increased enforcement for the Escuela Parkway area.

Chair Reisinger allow for Rob Means, 1421 Yellowstone Avenue, to speak about the topic. It seems to Mr. Means that we were just talking about one side of Escuela Parkway last year, but apparently it is both sides of the ride. He is opposed to the maneuver and right-of-way sacrificed for automobile traffic. This is just an encroachment of the automobile on something that cyclists have fought for in the past and received. Mr. Means feels that loading zones on Jacklin Road makes a lot of sense, a winner. But removing bike lanes represents the wrong direction. By allowing cars to park there and removing the bike lanes discouraging bike lanes and encouraging cars. This is a time where we should be cutting back on the use of automobiles when the cost of gas is going up. A second high school would make a difference. The last thing, if people are going round and round, why don't we give them a place to stop. He suggested placing a parking area along the median in the middle on the Hetch Hetchy right-of-way.

Mr. Rodriguez mentioned if the bike lanes were removed, there is still no parking. If someone would park their car on Escuela Parkway and leave, they will be cited. It is only for pick up and drop off.

Commissioner Bunnell asked if people are already dropping students off on Escuela Parkway, what difference would it make to remove the lanes. Mr. Rodriguez said not everyone does it and drives in circles as well. Signage can be officially changed from 7-9am or 2-4pm. Mr. Rodriguez said there is

no area on the street to provide parking, the street is not wide enough nor are there funds to do so.

Chair Reisinger requested a motion to go back to the City Council to recommend removal the bike lanes or keep it. Mr. Rodriguez suggested this item go to the Transportation Subcommittee. Chair Reisinger said that the Commission has previously gone straight to City Council with recommendations directly without going through the Transportation Subcommittee.

Commissioner Stanojevic said that she was originally in favor of removing the bike lanes, after hearing what was said, she is concerned now thinking that these people are going to pull over and not pay attention, and the students will be bicycling. She feels there is more potential for the children to get hit, worse than just having a bicycle lane.

Commissioner Stanojevic motions leaving Escuela Parkway as a bicycle lane. Commissioner Bunnell seconded the motion.

MOTION to not approve staff's request to add loading zone striping along Escuela Parkway
M/S: Stanojevic/Bunnell

Commissioner Zeise asked if there is enough area to widen the sidewalk to create a bicycle lane/sidewalk. Chair Reisinger said it sounded like a lot of money and the City could not do it. Commissioner Briones also said that the students walk next to each other and could not accommodate a cyclist.

Commissioner Bunnell requested a motion to review the Hetch Hetchy Right-of-way to place a gravel area for a bike lane. Mr. Rodriguez said this is not City-owned but would be more than happy to pursue this. Chair Reisinger said he liked the idea of a parking pad there. Commissioner Stanojevic said it would be nice to have an area near Russell for drivers to park.

Chair Reisinger stated there is a motion to keep the bike lanes (on Escuela Parkway) on the table and called for a vote.

Vote: All Ayes

Commissioner Briones asked if there could be a motion to ask the City to review a parking lot or bicycle path in the middle?

Mr. Rodriguez interrupted to let the Commission know this is a big problem for the City, and staff will forward a recommendation a request to the Transportation Subcommittee with a note saying the Commission voted against it. Depending on what the Transportation Subcommittee says, if they support it, then he will still move to the City Council for final approval.

Chair Reisinger retorted you don't have to develop the Hetch Hetchy Right

of Way but maybe put a compressed gravel for a parking lot.

2. UPRR Pedestrian Overcrossing

Chair Reisinger reported that previously there was a project to review a bicycle/pedestrian overcrossing the Union Pacific Rail Road (UPRR). Due to the increase in cost and location issues, the project was cancelled in order to provide funding to other Milpitas trails projects. Chair Reisinger requested this item be considered for Capital Improvement Projects especially because of the future development and the BART station.

Chair Reisinger would like to go back on record to ask for the study to be revived.

Commissioner Bunnell provided the Commissions and staff of a drawing of a location north of the Solelectron buildings along the Hetch Hetchy right of way. Motion (Reisinger) to request this item to be moved to the Transportation Subcommittee. Mr. Rodriguez said in the past, there was an increase in construction price and with the potential conflict of the BART project this was dropped. Mr. Rodriguez said the best alternative would be for the Commission to prepare a letter to the Planning Department, who is working on the Transit Area Plan study, and recommend a crossing over the railroad.

Mr. Rodriguez said staff would check with the City Clerk on the process if all items should move forward to the Transportation Subcommittee before City Council. Chair Reisinger said that usually items could go straight to the City Council.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

1. Election of Officers

- Commissioner Stanojevic nominated herself for Vice-Chair & Commissioner Bunnell for Chair
- All Ayes

2. Commission Representation

- Chair Reisinger asked Council Member Gomez to attend meetings and represent the BPAC. Council Member Gomez stated he had told the council that he is unable to represent the commission and it will again go to Council.

3. Bike to Work day, May 17, 2007

- Ms. Nadal distributed a memo requesting the BPAC to approve just 2 energizer stations instead of 3. The proposed stations would be City Hall and the Shell Station near Montague Expressway and Main Street and no longer have a Public Works Station. The numbers of volunteers are minimal and Public Works staff no longer participates at the Public Works Energizer Station. In addition, Ms. Nadal said

that the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition and the VTA are partnering to have an energizer station at the Great Mall Transit Center. The BPAC approved of the request to have two stations instead of three.

X. ROUNDTABLE/OPEN FORUM

1. Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements

- Mr. Rodriguez reported new bike lanes on Ames Street

2. Safety

No items were discussed

3. Public Awareness

No items were discussed

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the April 10, 2007 BPAC meeting

M/S: Bunnell/Briones

Vote: All Ayes

Next Meeting: June 11, 2007